

UNITED WITH CHRIST

Various passages

(Basic outline, add own comments)

Introduction: When God saves a person, what does He do for that new Christian? What takes place when one becomes a Christian? Salvation comes from Jesus Christ, but the believer is also brought into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ (like the umbilical cord between a baby and its mother).

1. UNION WITH CHRIST IS TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- John 9:5 - Jesus is light; John 6:35 - Jesus is bread; John 6:56 - eating Jesus' flesh and drinking His blood; John 10:27 - Jesus is the good shepherd; John 15:1 - Jesus is the vine and believers are the branches; John 14:20 - Jesus is in the believer.
- Paul wrote that Christ is the "husband," the head, the foundation. The believer is crucified, buried and raised with Christ. Christ is in the believer and believers are in Christ. For the believer to live is Christ.

2. FAITH IS THE MEANS OF UNITING WITH CHRIST

- Describe "FAITH" - being persuaded to the point of acting on it.
- **John 6:56; 15; 6; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17** - All (believers) abide in Christ and Christ abides in the believer's heart by that person's FAITH.
- Being united with Christ is "mystical" only in that a power outside comes into the believer's life.
- Being united with Christ is "supernatural" in that it is beyond man's power to comprehend.
- Faith in Christ is NOT blind trust. Saving faith comes as one hears and understands the Gospel and then is persuaded of Christ to the point of accepting Him.

3. BELIEVERS ARE UNITED WITH THE LIVING CHRIST

- Discuss the historical facts about Jesus Christ.
- Discuss how saving faith is not faith in a historical Christ, but in a risen, living person.
- Discuss the Gospel is Christ, pre-existent, born into this world, lived, slain, buried, raised, ascended, reigning and one day returning.
- The living Christ is creator and sustainer of all life.

4. BELIEVERS ARE UNITED WITH GOD

- To be united with Christ is also to be united with God.
- No one can know God EXCEPT as Christ reveals.
- One cannot know God APART from being infilled with Christ.
- Outside of Christ man can only speculate about God and form opinions.

5. BELIEVERS ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST VIA THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Union with Christ is a Spiritual experience.
- Spiritual experiences are of a higher order than everyday experiences.
- No person can know Jesus Christ as Savior/Lord apart from the Holy Spirit.
- Everyone in Christ has been made anew by the Holy Spirit.

- Believers lose none of their will when surrendering their will to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit guides and teaches.

CONCLUSION:

- At the moment of salvation, the believer is joined to Christ.
- When joined to Christ, one is joined to God.
- To be joined to Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- All three of the Trinity are involved in salvation.